

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Popular Attitudes in Poland

DATE DISTR. 26 JAN 1959

NO. PAGES 1

REFERENCES RD

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DATE OF INFO.

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. [redacted] report containing information on (1) popular attitudes in Poland and (2) [redacted]

[redacted] Included in the report is fragmentary information on General Zygmunt Berling.

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Polish Popular Attitudes:

[redacted] Gomulka was as much subject to Soviet domination in his internal policies as in foreign affairs.

[redacted] 90 percent of the non-Party people who at first rallied to Gomulka's side had since deserted him, so that he was forced to rely more and more upon the established apparatus of the Polish United Workers' Party (Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza - PZPR). The PZPR, in turn, was able to control the Polish political situation only because it had Soviet support.

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[redacted] the Communist regime would never succeed in reconstituting the collective farms.

[redacted] less than half of the Poles in the Soviet Union would have been repatriated before the expiration of the current agreement. [redacted] not only were the Soviets unwilling to release too many people who could bear witness to the defects of their political and economic system, but the Polish government itself was unwilling to accept more repatriates than it could conveniently find jobs and housing for.

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Appraisal of the PZPR

The "old Communists" though relatively few in number, were closer to the people than other PZPR members and enjoyed a higher standing with the working class.

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[redacted] One of Gomulka's first acts on coming to power was to direct the removal of most of the unpopular officials holding such posts in enterprises and factories. These key positions were then filled with more friendly and accommodating individuals. At the same time, the secret lists of politically disaffected or otherwise troublesome workers, which had been maintained by the Personnel Directors, were abolished.

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[redacted] the labor blacklist, which was one of the worst abuses of the pre-Gomulka period, might be revived.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Gomulka's attempt to reorganize and rejuvenate the PZPR [REDACTED] a failure. Though many undesirable individuals were weeded out, not many energetic and intelligent newcomers were recruited to take their places. [REDACTED] there was no such thing as a group of "Young Communists" within the PZPR; the younger members were either Centrists or Natolinists.

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[REDACTED]

General Zygmunt Berling

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Berling remained behind in the U.S.S.R. and organized a Polish army there because it seemed to him the most direct way of getting back to Poland, in contrast to the route taken by General Wladyslaw ANDERS and his men. When the Polish-Soviet forces approached Warsaw, Berling ordered his men to attack against the wishes of the Soviets. For this he was arrested and imprisoned in the U.S.S.R. [REDACTED]

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After his return to Poland, Berling refused any appearance of collaboration with the Communist regime until about 1952, at which time he consented to serve as Fourth Undersecretary of the Ministry of State Farms. This was a relatively unimportant administrative post in which Berling exercised little or no political influence. [REDACTED]

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